



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

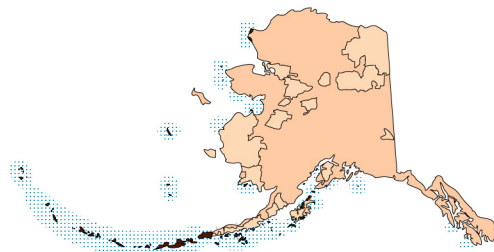
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge

Where Land and Sea Interact

- Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge was established to conserve marine mammals, marine birds and other migratory birds, and the marine resources upon which they depend.
- More than 2,500 islands, islets, spires, headlands, and reefs, all touched by the North Pacific or Arctic oceans, comprise this 4.9 million acre refuge.
- The refuge is so vast that a trip across it would be equivalent to traveling from Georgia to California.
- Containing 27 active volcanoes and 30 inactive volcanoes, the refuge's Aleutian Islands unit is the backbone of the spectacular Pacific "Ring of Fire."
- The refuge provides nesting havens for 40 million seabirds...the majority of North America's nesting seabirds.



The refuge's 120' ship M/V Tiglax at Mt. Cleveland in the Aleutian Islands.



 Refuge Lands

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service manages 16 national wildlife refuges in Alaska, or nearly 82% of the National Wildlife Refuge System acreage.

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- With more than 250 species of birds sighted, including unique subspecies and Asian migrants not found elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere, it is a bird watchers' paradise.
- Alaska Maritime Refuge lands are critical to maintaining healthy populations of marine mammals, including sea otters, northern fur seals and the endangered Steller sea lion.
- The *Alaska Islands & Ocean Visitor Center*, a showplace for marine education and research, and a partnership between the refuge and the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve, opens in Homer in 2004.
- Some examples of the refuge's rich history include the following: precontact settlement by all of Alaska's coastal Native peoples, particularly the Aleuts; the 18th century Russian Voyages of Discovery; the World War II Aleutian campaign including the Japanese occupation of Kiska and Attu and the bloody Battle of Attu; and the Cold War atomic tests on Amchitka.
- Working with partners, the refuge brought the Aleutian Canada goose back from the brink of extinction.
- Parts of this remote refuge are accessible to visitors. Visiting is best in summer when birds are nesting and sea lions and seals are pupping on the beaches.